

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JPR COMMISSION GIVES PASSING GRADE TO ALL JUDGES

On July 14 the Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review held its “public vote” meeting to determine whether the judges and justices who are up for retention at the 2004 General Election met judicial performance standards. An audience comprised of the general public, press, and court personnel observed while the Commission members voted on each of the 73 judges appearing on the ballot.

The vote was taken using coded judge numbers assigned at an independent data center. As each judge number was called, the Commission members voted “Yes” or “No” on whether a judge met the standards of Legal Ability, Integrity, Communication Skills, Judicial Temperament, and Administrative Performance. At the conclusion of the vote, the names of the judges were revealed.

In reaching their decisions, Commission members reviewed the results from surveys and public comments received from attorneys, jurors, litigants, witnesses, pro pers and staff appearing in the superior court branches of Pima and Maricopa Counties, and attorneys and superior court judges who had cases before the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court.

The results of the vote and judge data reports are now available on the internet at <http://supreme.state.az.us/jpr>. The Commission’s report will also appear in the 2004 Secretary of State’s Voter Information Guide which will be mailed to Arizona voters in the near future. It is the voters of Arizona who will determine whether a judge or justice is retained in office for another term.

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